



The President's Daily Brief

2 February 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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The Indians apparently have handed over some Bengali prisoners, including former East Pakistan governor Malik, to the Bangladesh government. (Page 2)

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SOUTH ASIA

The Indians have told a UN representative in Dacca that they have handed over former East Pakistan governor Malik and some other Bengali prisoners to the Bangladesh regime on 31 January for prosecution on war crimes charges.

New Delhi advised the UN Secretary General last month that it regarded the Dacca government as having the right to try accused war criminals. The Bangladesh authorities are already planning trials for the hundreds of accused collaborators they have arrested themselves.

In addition to Bengalis such as Malik who helped Islamabad administer East Pakistan, India might also turn over some West Pakistanis who held civilian posts in the East. Even some selected military figures accused of war crimes might also be yielded up. India's action could trigger reprisals against Bengalis in West Pakistan and diminish chances for Indo-Pakistani peace talks, which New Delhi in any event does not seem in a hurry to hold at this time.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

India: Six million refugees, or about 60 percent of the total, have returned to Bangladesh since the hostilities ended in mid-December. New Delhi is strongly encouraging repatriation, and most refugees, both Hindu and Muslim, are willing to return home soon. Our consulate in Dacca reports that, even though the returnees are proving resourceful in rebuilding bamboo homes and settling back into village life, concern is rising over the lack of organized medical, food, and other programs. Most of the cost of refugee support and repatriation has devolved on India. Only \$220 million in foreign aid has so far been pledged to meet what New Delhi estimates will be total costs of about \$475 million by the end of March. In addition, a good deal more is needed for rehabilitation of refugees within Bangladesh.

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Indochina: [REDACTED]

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